metres per day of natural gas for its proposed spong-iron project ;

(b) and (c) The Government of Gujarat have been informed that taking into consideration the present and projected production of natural gas from Bombay High and South Bassein by oil & Natural Gas Commission, and the supplies being made and the supplies already committed on a regular basis to consumers in priority sectors for their future requirements, supply of gas on a regular basis to their proposed spong-iron plant does not appear to be feasible at present.

Bulk drug capacity of Erythromycin etc.

132. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the bulk drug capacity of Erythromycin Thiocyanate (TIOC), Erythromycin Stearate and Erythromycin Estolate in the country from basic stage and how much is produced since August 1984 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO CHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : This Ministry monitors the production of Erythromycin and its salts only in the organised Sector. Capacity of Erythromycin and its salts licensed in the organised sector in the country is of the order of 94 tonnes per annum. Production details of Erythromycin and its salts are as under :

Month/year	Production (Tonnes)		
	Estolate	Stearate	Total
August 1984 to August 1985	21·69	1·65	23·34

Manufacturing process of digital switching equipment

133. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 12th July, 1985 to the effect that to reduce the cost to half and the gestation period from 5 to 3 years, the Indian Telephone Industries Chairman has proposed the ITI should hand over the manufacturing of components and sub-systems to professionally competent ancillaries and itself do the assembly work of manufacturing process of the digital switching equipment ; and

(b) if so, what is Government's decision in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A proposal has been mooted to the Board of Directors of Indian Telephone Industries for setting up manufacturing capacity of 5 lakh lines of digital electronic switching equipment each at their Bangalore and Palghat Units on Assembly line principle and is under their consideration.

Participation of Private Sector for the Modernisation of Country's Telecommunications System

134. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to involve the private sector in the